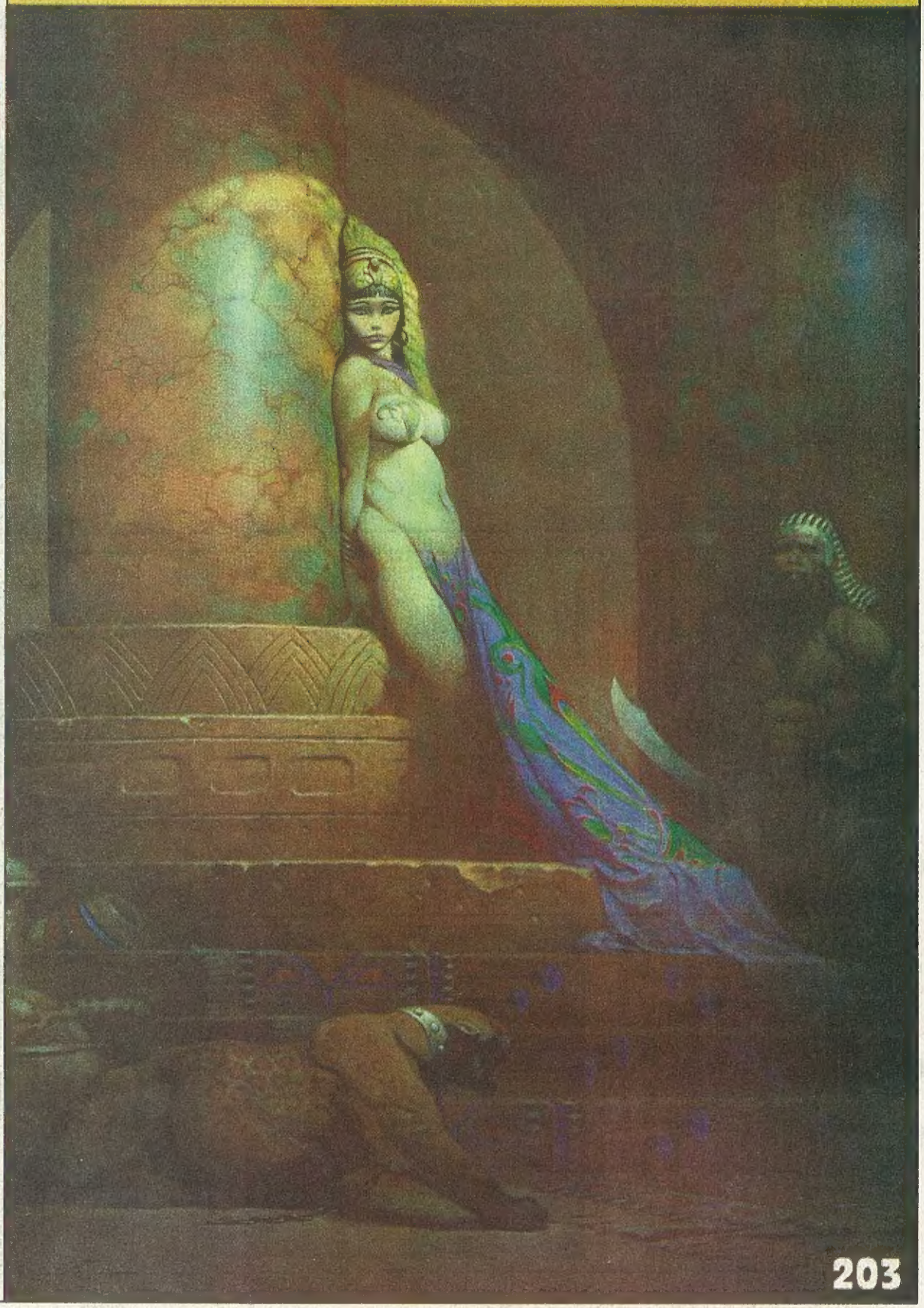
COMIC SHOP NEWS™

THE MUMMY MAY HOT PICKS



Outlaws Ready To Steal Robin Hood's Thunder

With all the attention focused on Robin Hood this year due to the major theatrical release of ***Robin Hood, Prince of Thieves,*** a variety of publishers are rushing different Robin Hood titles into print. However, Jan Michael Friedman and Luke McDonnell are taking have a different plan in mind: they're doing for the Robin Hood legend what Mike Barr and Brian Bolland did for the Camelot legend in ***Camelot 3000***--moving it into the future without losing its essential elements. ***Outlaws,*** a deluxe-format eight-issue limited series, moves the action from the wilds of Sherwood Forest to the wilderness of a post-apocalyptic America. Their world is a realm of civilization in decline, heading towards collapse. Nature has reclaimed much of what man had developed before the devastation came, and human existence has reverted to a limited-technology mockery of today's modern society.The Outlaws are a band of freedom fighters whose enemy is a cruel ruler who rules like a feudal lord--and views all other inhabitants as virtual serfs. He has perverted justice to his own ends, and virtually no one is willing--or able--to stand up to him. No one, that is, but the Outlaws, led by a man known as Hood.

The Outlaws is written by Jan Michael Friedman, well known for his work on DC's ***Star Trek: The Next Generation***. Luke McDonnell, former artist on ***Suicide Squad*** and ***The Phantom,*** is the illustrator for the series.

Outlaws #1, a $1.95 32-page comic book, is slated for July 25th release.

by LANNY LATHEM

Marvel Offers a Wonder-full July

Wonder Man is one of the oldest heroes in the Marvel Universe who doesn't have his own comic book. First introduced in ***Avengers #9***, it looked like Wonder Man was destined for a very short stay in the Marvel Universe--after all, he died in the same comic in which he premiered. Good character don't stay dead for long, though--after all, we're talking comic books here, right?--and Wonder Man returned to become a mainstay of the Avengers family and the star of an occasional one-shot or solo adventure. In July, Marvel gives Wonder Man a chance to move from supporting-star to leading man status when ***Wonder Man***, an ongoing monthly series, debuts.

Wonder Man is written by Gerard Jones--an appropriate choice, considering the movie-oriented nature of the Wonder Man series. Wonder Man is Simon Williams, a superhero who's also an on-the-verge-of-fame actor; he straddles the fence between the adventurous world of the superhero and the glamorous world of the star, and he's enjoying each world too much to give up one for the other. Gerard Jones can understand; after all, he's a comics writer who's also working with a major studio to adapt his ***Trouble With Girls*** to the screen, so he's seen the reality behind the Hollywood glitz.

Wonder Man is illustrated by tyro Jeff Johnson, an artist whose style is sure to appeal to comics fans. "Jeff is a part of the same studio as Whilce Portacio and Jim Lee," Marvel's Dave Kozinski said, "and he has that visual style that fans love."

In the first issue, Wonder Man is attacked by Goliath--but it's a publicity stunt designed to help boost public awareness of Wonder Man the actor.

Sometimes publicity stunts don't work quite the way they're intended, though... Future issues of ***Wonder Man*** will feature guest-stars from the pages of the Avengers titles; Wonder Man will also play a prominent role in the Avengers crossover storyline planned for this fall.

As a special bonus, Marvel will include a "movie poster" for a Wonder Man film in the first issue of ***Wonder Man***. Other "movie posters," printed on cover-stock paper and inserted in the centerfold of the comic, will be included from time to time in future issues of ***Wonder Man.***

Wonder Man will also play a part in this summer's Avengers graphic novel, ***Deathtrap: The Vault.*** This graphic novel unites the Avengers and Freedom Force, who must work together to try to regain control over The Vault, the place where the most dangerous super-villains are held. Venom, Goliath, and the Rhino lead the super-villains. Defeating the villains is problem enough, but having to deal with the former Brotherhood of Evil Mutants makes it even tougher... According to Marvel's Skip Dietz, "***Deathtrap: The Vault*** also marks Freedom Force's last appearance, after being wiped out in last month's Mutant Annuals," making this graphic novel of special interest to mutant fans as well. ***Deathtrap: The Vault*** is written by ***Darkhawk***'s Danny Fingeroth and illustrated by ***Captain America*** and ***Silver Surfer*** artist Ron Lim.

Wonder Man is slated for July 11th release; each 32-page standard-format issue will be priced at $1. ***Deathtrap: The Vault*** is scheduled for July 23rd release; the 64-page graphic novel will carry a $9.95 pricetag.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Millennium's New Mummy Comic No Longer Under Wraps

Anne Rice's ***The Mummy, or Ramses the Damned*** has been such a success for Millennium Comics that the publishers are ready to offer the title some musty company this spring. ***Tales From the Mummy's Tomb*** brings to comics three other famous horror writers' interpretations of the accursed-mummy concept--and Millennium is convinced that horror fans will find all three tales Tut-uncommonly good.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is renowned for his Sherlock Holmes tales, but he also produced several horror stories in his time, including "Lot No. 249," a story of a mummy freed in Victorian England. The Wild Wild West team of Darryl Banks, Mark Ellis, Robert Lewis, and Dierdre DeLay bring this story to comics (and if it sounds a little familiar, that might be because it was also adapted as a part of ***Tales From the Darkside: The Movie***).

Pulp writer Victor Rosseau's "The Curse of Amen-Ra" explores an archeologist's discovery of an untouched three thousand year old mummy--a discovery that could bring doom to the modern world! Rosseau's tale is adapted by veteran artist Jim Mooney.

Writer Frank Belknap Long, a respected member of the ***Weird Tales*** circle who collaborated with H.P. Lovecraft is represented with "Visitor From Egypt," the story of a museum visitor who comes to reclaim something that should never have been taken from its homeland. "Visitor From Egypt" is adapted by Paul Davis and Eddy Newell.

Tales From the Mummy's Tomb, a 48-page full-color one-shot, should be in comic shops this month; the eye-catching Frank Frazetta cover should make it very easy to spot.

by KIM B. PEARSON

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quickshots

Terminator 2 Targets Marvel Fans

When Terminator 2 debuts this summer as one of the biggest-budget films of all time, don't look for a Dark Horse adaptation; while Dark Horse has the rights to continue publishing new Terminator limited series and one-shots, Marvel Comics has acquired the rights to **Terminator 2** and will be adapting that film beginning on July 5th. Marvel's adaptation of **Terminator 2: Judgement Day** will be written by Gregory Wright and illustrated by Klaus Janson. On that date, fans will have a choice of either a black-and-white Marvel Super Special magazine-format adaptation of the film or a $4.95 full-color bookshelf-format one-shot adaptation. On July 18th, the first issue of the three-issue comic book miniseries of the **Terminator 2** adaptation will appear. This miniseries will wrap up in mid-August; a month later, Marvel Comics debuts its ongoing **Terminator 2** series. That means that starting this fall, **Terminator** fans will be able to enjoy a double-helping of their favorite future-cyborgs!

Nancy Collins Ventures Into the Swamp

Horror author Nancy A. Collins, well-known for her novels **Sunglasses After Dark** and **Tempter,** moves from the bookshelves to the comic book racks beginning this June. Collins has been chosen as the new writer of **Swamp Thing**. The choice is actually quite appropriate, considering Swamp Thing's Louisiana bayou "roots"; Collins is a longtime resident of the New Orleans area and is quite familiar with the sometimes bizarre nature that is a part of the New Orleans mystique.

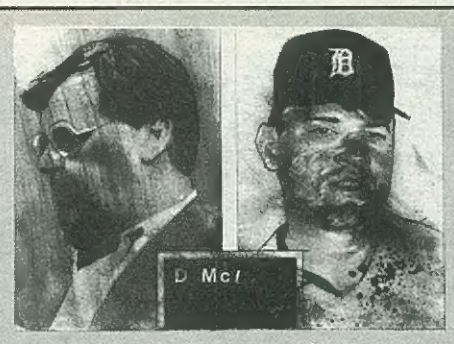
Collins' first work appears in **Swamp Thing Annual #6**, in which Swamp Thing and his family return to their home in the Louisiana swamp, only to find that a bizarre creature--a creature composed of the bodies of four murdered people--is stalking the area. A week later, Collins makes her debut on **Swamp Thing**'s monthly title; her first issue presents Father Toctin, a mad preacher who measures his followers' loyalty by their willingness to take poison at his command.

When Collins takes over the writing honors on **Swamp Thing**, she will be joined by new artist Bill Jaaska. Jaaska has previously illustrated issues of **Sable, The Uncanny X-Men,** and **Shade, the Changing Man**.

Swamp Thing Annual #6, a $2.95 book, is scheduled for June 20th release; **Swamp Thing #110** follows a week later on June 27th.

Foul Ball Cards Promise To Be a Big Hit

Baseball fans have enjoyed cards from scores of companies that depicted the season's players, with special emphasis on the most successful. Eclipse is taking a different route with its **Foul Ball Trading Cards**, however; they're focusing on the most scandalous players in the history of America's game. Gary Cohen, an Emmy Award-winner and a sports video producer, is writing the copy for these set of baseball lowlights; William Cone is supplying the artwork. Among the events pictured in this 36-card full-color set are Pete Rose's suspension for gambling, Ty Cobb's fight with a disabled fan, Ted Turner's fleeting moment of baseball glory, and Denny McClain's arrest. The 36 cards, available only as a boxed set, are priced at $8.95; look for 'em in June. Incidentally, Eclipse has labelled these "First Series"; obviously, if reaction is as good as they expect, there'll be plenty more **Foul Ball**s down the line.



DENNY McCLAIN TAKES A FALL

Travelling by Sea and Air...

New Warriors #14 reunites Namorita with a familiar relative: Namor the Sub-Mariner. The story unites the two aquatic wonders to stop undersea terrorist Sea Urchin from looting Atlantean tombs. This issue also guest stars hot '91 hit Darkhawk, whose series is likely to be the hottest new non-mutant Marvel title this year. **New Warriors #14** is written by Fabian Nicieza and illustrated by Mark Bagley and Larry Mahlstedt; look for it on June 25th. Incidentally, when **New Warriors** artist Mark Bagley takes over as regular artist on **Amazing Spider-Man** beginning in July, you can look for New Warriors member Nova to guest-star...

4E 4Ever

If you grew up in the early 1960's, you were probably a fan of **Famous Monsters of Filmland**--it seems to be a prerequisite for childhood during this era. Forrest (4E) J. Ackerman's **Famous Monsters** was the starting point of today's modern horror fandom, and many of the biggest names in horror films and novels today, including Stephen King, George Romero, Stephen Spielberg, Tom Savini, and John Landis, cite the magazine as an early influence on their careers. Those of you who have fond memories of **Famous Monsters** (and aren't satisfied with the reprint **Monsterama** series from Monster Comics) will have a chance to see just how many other people are 4Efans when **Famous Monster of Filmland Chronicles**, a 192-page softcover, is released this July. Fantaco, whose specialty is horror, is the publisher for this tribute book, which features interviews with Ray Bradbury, Vincent Price, Joe Dante, Ramsey Campbell, Ray Harryhausen, and many others who either appeared in or were influenced by this magazine. Forrest Ackerman supplies a special "foreweird" for the volume; also featured are color reproductions of many **Famous Monsters** covers. The trade paperback is priced at $19.95; there are also hardcover and signed/numbered limited editions planned, so let the friendly folks at your local comic shop know if you're interested (and tell 'em you heard about it in **CSN**...).

Gladstone's Horror Comics Are a Serious Undertaking

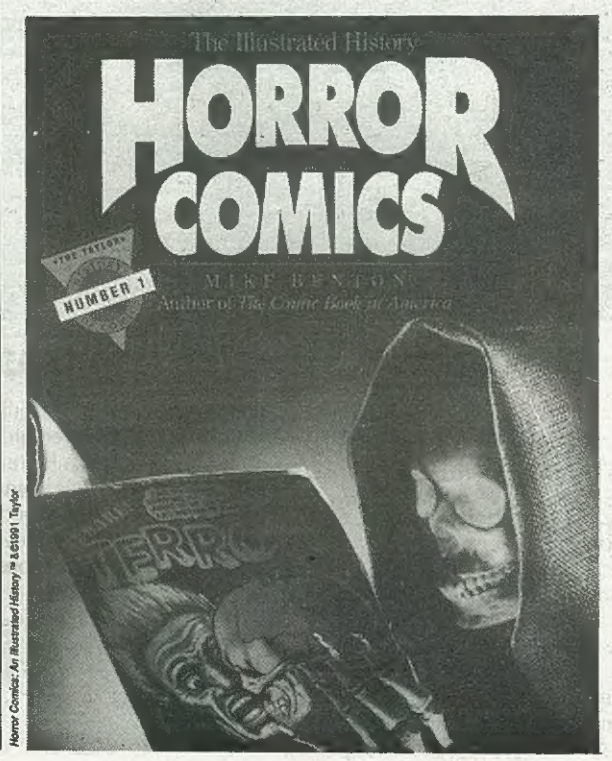
Gladstone is no longer publishing EC reprints, but that doesn't mean that the company is out of the horror business. Beginning this summer, Gladstone will introduce a new line of original horror comics. Just like the EC comics that have inspired the new line, the Gladstone books will feature horror short stories prefaced by humorous introductions by macabre hosts.

Gladstone's first horror title, **Grave Tales,** debuts in mid-June. The 48-page black-and-white comic will feature five different short stories and five different hosts. Golden Age comics legend L.B. Cole supplies the painted cover, while the interiors feature work by Joe Staton, James Van Hise, Tom Sutton, Gray Morrow, and others.

Grave Tales #1 is priced at $3.95. It is the first of a line of horror comics from Gladstone; additional titles are set to debut later this year.

Don't Be Afraid To Ask For This Book...

Most comics fans not only enjoy reading comics, they also enjoy reading about comics. The past few years have seen a real increase in the number of historical works about the comics medium, but most of them try to cover the entire medium, meaning that they can't offer the sort of in-depth coverage that comics fans would really enjoy seeing.



Horror Comics: An Illustrated History ™ &©1991 Taylor

The Taylor History of Comics is taking a different approach; rather than trying to cover more than a half-century of comics history in a couple of hundred pages, Taylor has announced plans for a series of high-quality, lavishly-illustrated books that spotlight specific comics genres. The first volume, scheduled for release in June, is **Horror Comics: An Illustrated History**, a 152-page hardcover with more than 250 color photographs. According to Taylor, "**Horror Comics** will be the only comprehensive guide to all of the comics published in this genre, from Classics Illustrated's **Frankenstein** to Clive Barker's **Hellraiser.**" Mike Benton, the author of **The Comic Book In America,** is the author of **Horror Comics** and the other titles in the Taylor line. Future volumes include Superhero Comics, Crime Comics, and Science Fiction Comics. **Horror Comics: An Illustrated History** is priced at $21.95; as with any specialty books of this sort, you might want to reserve a copy with the friendly folks at your local comics shop--and tell 'em you heard about it in **CSN**...

Let's Start at the Beginning

The high-tech world of **R. Talsorian's Cyberpunk:2020** is about to become a little more defined. The **Cyberpunk Corp Book #1** is the first in a series of handbooks that will detail certain aspects of the **Cyberpunk** universe. The first volume deals with Arasaka Security, Militech, and two other high profile organizations in the **Cyberpunk** world. The suggested retail price is $12.00.

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quickshots

Batman Gets Mugged

DC has offered a variety of collectible items to complement its comics line, ranging from shirts to caps to watches to pins to cards; this summer, though, DC makes its first foray into a new collectible area: mugs. DC Comics Collector's Mugs, a new series of mugs featuring hand-painted designs on bas-relief mugs, will debut on August 1st with the **Batman in Gotham City Mug,** a limited edition piece whose handle features a hand-painted Batman design. These mugs will not be mass-produced generic mugs; DC is limiting the production to 5000 copies, and each mug will be individually numbered on the bottom in gold ink. The **Batman in Gotham City Mug** will come bubble-wrapped in its own box; DC plans to follow this mug with a Superman mug later this year. The mugs carry a $14.95 pricetag; as with any collectible of this sort, be sure to let the folks at your local comic shop know that you're interested--and tell 'em that you heard about it in **CSN!**

His Name Is Savage

Doc Savage is back--not in comics, mind you, but in an all-new Doc Savage novel written by Philip José Farmer, the author who documented the Man of Bronze's life in **Doc Savage: His Apocalyptic Life**. Since Bantam Books has reprinted the entire run of Doc Savage pulp adventures, along with one story written for the pulps but never published, the only way they could offer more Doc Savage material was to have someone write it. Philip Jose Farmer was more than willing to do so, and what a story he's created--it's the origin adventure of Clark Savage, a sixteen-year-old who finds himself shot down behind enemy lines, where he first joins forces with his the men destined to become his aides. Farmer's 224-page Doc Savage novel, **Doc Savage: Escape From Loki,** is slated for July release; even better, this $4.99 novel is the first in a series of new Doc Savage adventures. Will Murray, already known to comics fans for his work on **The Destroyer**, had already completed the next book in the **Doc Savage** series and is working on future volumes (Murray's books will be published under the historic Kenneth Robeson byline that Lester Dent and others used during the series' pulp run).

Everything is Beautiful...

After far too long a hiatus, **Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children** is returning as a 32-page comic book beginning this July. Dave Louapre and Dan Sweetman are still the surreal/existential honchos behind the series, but there will be one change when **Beautiful Stories #19** appears: the covers will be designed to emphasize the individual stories rather than the ongoing monthly title. DC is doing this to stress to readers that each issue features a self-contained story, and that fans can start reading Beautiful stories with any issue and enjoy it without having to read prior stories. **Beautiful Stories For Ugly Children #19** is priced at $2.50.

Doing the Impossible...

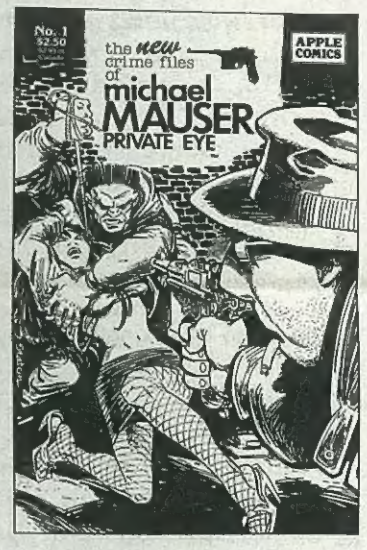
Man, that is. Last year's zany **Impossible Man Summer Special** was such a hit that Marvel just had to do it again. This year's Special is subtitled, "One of Our Impkids Is Missing!" When the Impossible family left Earth to head back to Poppup, they didn't notice that they left a one of the Impossible Kids behind! Now the Poppuppians want their kid back, and they'll turn the planet upside down to find him! **The Impossible Man Summer Special** will feature work by oodles of Marvel writers and artists; one who'll definitely be represented is Michael Golden, who supplies the **Turtles**ish cover for this 48-page comic. **The Impossible Man Summer** Special, a July 18th release, is priced at $2.

Impossible Man ™ &©1991 Marvel Comics

Help's On Its Way From the True North...

The Comic Legends Legal Defense Fund, an organization of comics creators founded to help offer financial assistance to comic shops charged with selling obscene materials, has announced the upcoming release of **The True North II.** The $4.50 comic book will feature a foldout front cover by Dave Sim and Gerhard and a back cover by Moebius. Other contributors include Denis Beauvais, Jacques Boivin, David Boswell, Chester Brown, Dan Day, David Day, Max Douglas, Roberta Gregory, Theresa Henry, Gilbert Hernandez, Janet Hetherington, Kelley Jones, Ron Kasman, Deni Loubert, Joe Matt, Derek McCullough, Pat McEown, Todd McFarlane, Bernie Mireault, Carol Moiseiwitch, Jeffrey Morgan, Gabrial Morrissette, Mark Nelson, Richard Pace, Jerry Prosser, Ken Steacy, Ronn Sutton, R.G. Taylor, Simon Tristan, Matt Wagner, Reed Waller, and Kate Worley. *whew!* How many other books can you think of that can boast a creative team that varied--and that popular?... Look for **True North II** in June.

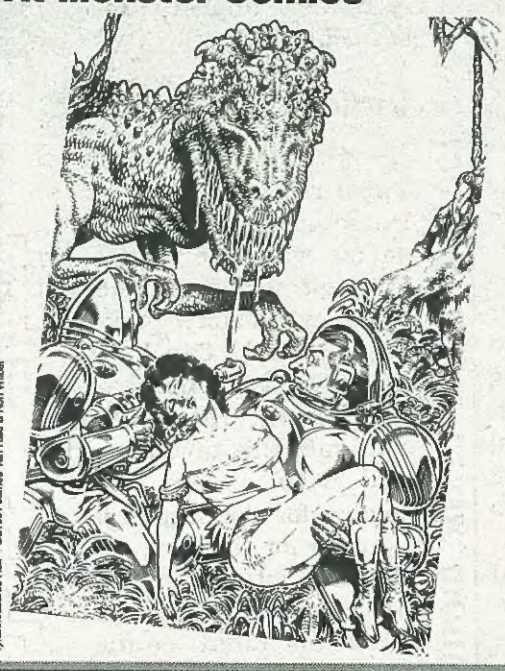
Mauser Aims for Success in New Series



Michael Mauser™ &©1991 Joe Staton

Michael Mauser, seemingly forever destined to be a second banana for E-Man, proves that he has what it takes to be a star on his own this summer when Apple Comics awards the private eye his own comic book. **The New Crime Files of Michael Mauser, Private Eye** reunites Nicola Cuti and Joe Staton, the creators of E-Man and Mauser, to present a suspenseful tale of murdered prostitutes, a psychotic killer, and evidence that seems to indicate that Mauser himself might be responsible for the crimes. Is it true? Is it possible that the brain tumor responsible for Mauser's blackouts could have turned him into a murderer? Is it possible that his solo series is destined to be a one-shot? Find out in July when the first $2.50 issue debuts.

Dinosaurs Walk Again At Monster Comics



Tyrannosaurus Rex ™ &©1991 James Van Hise & Ron Wilber

For creatures who have been extinct for millions of years, dinosaurs sure seem to be doing quite well for themselves, don't they? In the past few years, they've starred in a feature film and a television series, have been the subjects of best-selling novels and big-budget films-in-progress, and have consistently been some of the most popular toys available. What better time for Monster Comics to announce a pair of dinosaur comics?

Tyrannosaurus Rex, a new science fiction series by James Van Hise and Ron Wilber, is the story of an expedition on an alien world populated by dinosaurs, where big game hunter Tex Beaumont leads a safari to hunt the most dangerous game in the galaxy. The black-and-white 32-page comic, published in Monster Comics' super-gloss format, will carry a $2.50 pricetag.

Dinosaur Bop takes a somewhat different approach to the ever-popular dinosaur theme. As Monster Comics puts it, "Imagine Jack Kirby's evil twin, after chowing down on a plate of brontosaurus burgers, tripping on a pile of Archie comics that have been rewritten by filmmaker John Waters... The result just might look like **Dinosaur Bop,** the hippest palaeolithic French import you've ever seen...!" Romance, adventure, magic, dinosaurs, science fiction, humor--it's all here in J.M. Arnon's **Dinosaur Bop,** a $2.50 32-page super-gloss comic.

Dinosaur Bop and **Tyrannosaurus Rex** are both scheduled for June release.

Boldly Going Where No Comic Has Gone Before...

Personality Comics, the line of bio-books devoted to exploring (in unauthorized editions) the lives of various celebrities, has scheduled what will most likely be their most popular title thus far: **The Original Crew #1: William Shatner,** a biography of the actor best known for his portrayal of Captain Kirk. According to Personality Comics, this is "the first issue in a new series featuring unauthorized biographies of the cast from the original Star Trek." Spire, Pettiglio, and Dorne are producing the Shatner bio; the 32-page comic will be priced at $2.95. There will also be a signed and numbered bagged edition of 2000 (signed by the writer and artist, that is, *not* by William Shatner) will be priced at $3.95.

A Serious Superhero

Dudley Serious, the hero who took fans on an interactive adventure through the **Dungeons of Doom** a few months ago, is returning to the comic shops in May; this time around, Dudley's a superhero, and it's up to him--and his readers--to bring the criminal rampage of the evil Cliché Master to an end! Like the first Dudley Serious adventure, **Dudley Serious Saves the World** is an interactive comic that allows readers to decide what course of action Dudley will take at crucial intervals in the story. Paul O'Connor is the writer for this find-you-own-adventure story; Phillip Hester and Ande Parks supply the art. The 64-page comic book is priced at $4.95.

MAY HOT PICKS

by cliff biggers

What a month! May gives us five comic book shipping weeks this year; that helps to explain why the ***CSN*** *Checklist last week was the longest in the history of this publication. With all those books hitting the stands this month, it's more important than ever to know what you need to keep an eye out for. Here are the two dozen books you don't want to pass up; it's very likely that they won't be on the racks long enough to give you a second shot...*

Batman: Full Circle

Mike Barr and Alan Davis had a short but very memorable run on ***Detective Comics*** a few years ago; if any series of issues deserves reprinting, it's those wonderful issues. But here we have something better than a reprinting: a new 64-page prestige-format one-shot that is a sequel to the ever-popular ***Batman: Year Two*** storyline. Alan Davis left Batman after the first installment of ***Year Two***, whereupon then-tyro Todd McFarlane took over; this time, though, the confrontation between Batman and The Reaper is Davis all the way--and it's lovely to look at... I suspect that everyone who read Year Two will have trouble resisting this follow-up--especially since it ties in with Batman's origin as well. *(DC, $5.95)*

Batman: Full Circle ™ & © 1991 DC Comics

Superman ™ & © 1991 DC Comics

Concrete: Fragile Creature 1

Years in the making, the full-color Paul Chadwick ***Concrete*** series is here at last! Paul took some time off to pursue fame and fortune in the motion picture industry--but that's good news for all of us ***Concrete*** fans, since that movie experience serves as the basis for this story of Concrete's new career in movie special effects. Every Concrete appearance in ***Dark Horse Presents*** has pushed sales way up; imagine what a spring sizzler a full ***Concrete*** miniseries will be! *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Daredevil 294

Dan Chichester's first ***Daredevil*** storyline teamed the Man Without Fear with the ever-popular Punisher. So how does he follow that up? With a Ghost Rider team-up, of course. A clever move; after all those new fans pick up four issues of ***Daredevil*** with such stellar guests, odds are they're going to stay around for a while. *(Marvel, $1)*

Deathlok 1

Last summer, ***Deathlok*** was one of Marvel's surprise hits; is it any wonder that Marvel is following it up with an ongoing series? Of course not. The real surprise, though, is that Marvel has been able to entice the same creative team--Greg Wright, Dwayne McDuffie, and Denys Cowan--to return for this ongoing series. Even better, Marvel is making a change sure to boost fan interest in Deathlok: they're tying him in closely with the Marvel Universe, including some heavyweight guest stars in the first half-dozen issues. *(Marvel, $1.75)*

little nemo in slumberland overlooked sizzler of the month

There are oodles o' strip reprints out there--so many that it's almost easier to pass 'em by than to figure out which are the real gems. That's not an advisable course of action, though; if you pass by Fantagraphics' ***Complete Little Nemo in Slumberland Volume Five***, you'll be passing by one of the most entertaining comic reads ever produced in strip or book form. Winsor McKay's Little Nemo is a seminal strip, influencing the work of many talents in the field. The work has a fantastic quality that seems just as refreshing today as it undoubtedly did when it first appeared. The $35 pricetag may be a bit demanding, but it's worth it: comic strips never got any better than this. Once you've picked up this volume, start adjusting your budget so that you can pick up a volume a month until you have the entire set; you'll be glad you did. (Eclipse is also producing a $35 hardcover edition of this same material; that doubles your chances of latching onto a copy.)

Flash TV Special 1

Oh, ***The Flash*** may not be one of the top ten television series--but even so, bear in mind that every episode of the Flash has produced higher viewer numbers than the number of fans who bought the best-selling comic in the history of the medium. That's why ***The Flash TV Special*** should be a real scorcher this month; there are a lot of readers who will be curious to see Barry Allen's Flash return, even if he isn't a real part of the DC Universe. Of course, a lot of fans who don't normally read the Flash will be intrigued by the John Byrne-Javier Saltares led story, too... *(DC, $2.95)*

Ghost Rider 15

It's hard to believe that a special ink can make a book a hot seller--but that's the case here. ***Ghost Rider 15*** is the first comic to feature luminous ink on the cover. Be sure that no fans are going to be in the dark on this book's hot status. *(Marvel, $1.75)*

Indiana Jones 2

The first issue of Dark Horse's ***Indiana Jones*** series was one of the quickest sellouts in the company's history, proving that Indy can be a comics smash if he's handled properly. The storyline continues this time around, and with orders being smaller for the second issue than for the first, the odds are very good that this comic won't last a week on most comic shops' shelves. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

csn hot picks

Infinity Gauntlet 1

Marvel's big summer crossover event. Jim Starlin. George Perez. More Marvel heroes than you've seen in one series since Secret Wars. Cosmic drama. Instant sellout. *(Marvel, $2.50)*

Legend of the Shield 1

The Impact era begins with a government-created patriotic hero who isn't just another Captain America clone. Of course, Grant Miehm has more than a little background doing contemporary patriotic heroes--after all, he did produce some outstanding issues of ***The American*** with Mark Verheiden. Get in on the ground floor of a New Universe done right... *(Impact, $1)*

Magnus: Robot Fighter 3

Magnus has been this spring's sleeper hit. Hardly anyone anticipated the reader demand for this series; both the first and second issues have been phenomenal sellers, with many stores reporting total sellouts, and the demand is sure to continue. Jim Shooter has proven that he hasn't lost the knack to give fans the sort of stories they want. *(Valiant, $1.75)*

Marshal Law: The Hateful Dead 1

Marshal Law is back, fighting some of his most popular adversaries. This isn't a flashback issue, either; instead, some force has resurrected them, Night-of-the-Living-Dead-like, from the graveyards of San Futuro. Yep, it's another story sure to appeal to the macabre sense of humor of ***Marshal Law*** fans... *(Apocalypse, $5.95)*

Mister E 1

No sooner does ***Books of Magic*** end than this new series begins. Tim Hunter, the young child who showed such promise in ***Books of Magic***, may be a focus of evil in Mister E's future--but can Mister E do anything about it? DC's track record with this sort of horror is unsurpassed; this is another sure winner. *(DC, $1.75)*

Namor the Sub-Mariner 16

Sub-Mariner versus Iron Fist. Desmond Marrs versus the Punisher. Comics fans versus other comics fans in their struggle to latch onto this book before it sells out... *(Marvel, $1)*

New Mutants Annual 11

New Warriors Annual 1

These two annuals tie into the comics event of 1991, the creation of the new X-Men. The Muir Island storyline is wrapped up in the mutant annual this time. This storyline brings together X-Men and X-Factor, the two teams whose membership will be shuffled to produce three teams later this year; it will also feature New Mutants in their final pre-X-Force adventure. Finally, the New Warriors join the X-Family for this storyline; with all those mutant fans picking up copies of ***New Warriors Annual*** to continue this four-part story, ***New Warriors Annual #1*** could be one of Marvel's quickest annual sellouts this year. *(Marvel. $2@)*

Nightmares on Elm Street 1

Considering the strong interest in horror comics in the past year, it's almost certain that Innovation's ***Nightmares on Elm Street*** comic is going to find a larger audience than Marvel's short-lived magazine version did. In spite of the up-and-down quality of the various ***Elm Street*** films, the concept behind the series is still quite popular and virtually tailor-made for comic books. Innovation's track record for successful adaptations also has to be considered here; it gives another nudge to a book already shoving its way towards sellout status. *(Innovation, $2.50)*

Ninja High School: Prom Formula 1

This hot pick title is actually rescheduled from last month; it's just as hot, though, owing to the popularity of Ben Dunn's ***Ninja High School.*** As we said last month, "this one is destined to be a sellout--and deservedly so, since it has the same manga-inspired combination of humor and adventure that has made the ongoing series so popular." *(Eternity, $2.95)*

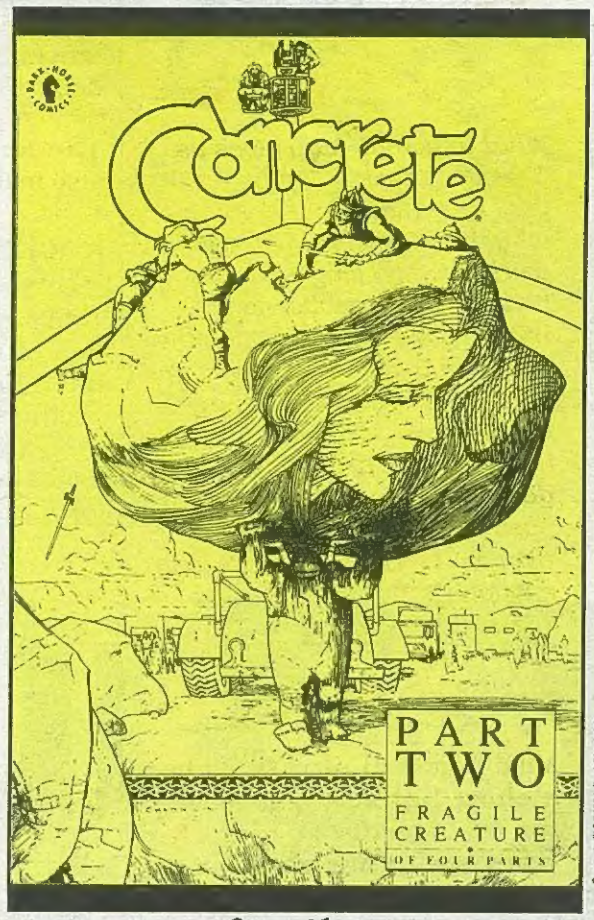
Predator: Big Game 3

The past few years have been very, very good for movie-inspired comics; no matter how successful other publishers are, though, the king of this sub-genre has to be Dark Horse. They keep producing one white-hot miniseries after another; judging from the incredibly strong response to the first issue of this series, fans can anticipate the same stellar sales figures for ***Predator: Big Game*** as they saw for ***Aliens, Predator,*** and ***Terminator***. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Punisher POV 1

A fan's dream: a top-notch writer (Jim Starlin) teams up with a top-notch artist (Berni Wrightson) to offer an intriguingly different version of a fan-favorite character (The Punisher). Even better, said writer has produced a plot that allows the aforementioned artist to throw in every illustrative element for which he has become famous. Now here's a book that's likely to be the upscale-format series of 1991... *(Marvel, $4.95)*

cover of the month



concrete: fragile creature 2

Rocketeer GN

Okay, ***Dick Tracy*** wasn't quite the film (or comics) smash that everyone had hoped it would be. We can't expect every summer to be dominated by a comic-inspired film, can we?... Maybe every *other* summer is a more reasonable expectation! Everyone who's sneaked an advance peek at ***The Rocketeer*** has raved about it; even if the film isn't the year's biggest release, though, the comic book is sure to blast off. Disney has done it right this time: they've enlisted popular writer Peter David and artist-great

may hot picks

Rocketeer 3-D

Russ Heath to translate the film exploits Dave Stevens' famous character back to comics form again. Stevens supplies an eye-catching new cover for this issue to give it initial thrust, but the interiors of ***Rocketeer*** will carry this book into orbit. *(Disney, $5.95)* Oh, yes; if we're talking about ***The Rocketeer,*** then we have to also mention...

Rocketeer 3-D Comic

That's right, another film adaptation of the ***Rocketeer*** film. This time, however, the adaptation is produced by Continuity Associates (Neal Adams and crew), based on their storyboard work for the film. Ray Zone adapts the art into 3-D, and Disney adds a bonus to intrigue even the most jaded 3-D fan: a stereo cassette that offers "3-D Sound" to accompany the 3-D pictures. *(Disney, $7.99)*

Sub Mariner 16

Superman: Man of Steel 1

You got it: a new Superman book. Don't look for it to repeat the Supermania generated by John Byrne's ***Man of Steel*** series--but that doesn't mean you should think of it as just another comic, either. It is, after all, the first issue of an all-new Superman title, produced by a writer-artist team who built an audience for them-

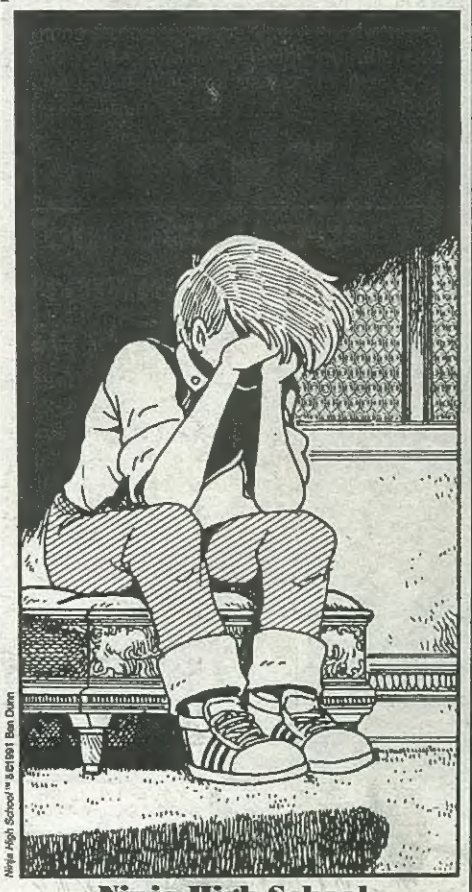
by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

BATMAN™
MAD HATTER
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
ARKHAM ASYLUM.
MY NAME IS JERVIS TETCH. AND THIS IS MY STORY OF HOW I MET THE BATMAN.
WAYNE MANOR, SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.
IT JUST MAKES ME UNCOMFORTABLE!
I DON'T LIKE YOU TRYING TO GET THE RIDDLER A JOB! HE'S A CRIMINAL!
HE SAVED MY LIFE.
BESIDES, YOU VISIT HARVEY DENT IN THE ASYLUM EVERY WEEK!
THAT'S... DIFFERENT.
I DON'T GET IT.
WHY DOES HE VISIT TWO-FACE EVERY WEEK?
HARVEY DENT WAS HIS BEST FRIEND.
THEY GREW UP TOGETHER. HE WAS NEVER HAPPIER THAN WHEN MR. DENT CAME TO CALL.
LITTLE THINGS LIKE MADNESS AND MURDER CANNOT CHANGE THAT.
HERE IN ARKHAM ASYLUM, LOTS OF PEOPLE VISIT.
BRUCE WAYNE SEES TWO-FACE EVERY WEEK.
BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER IF NO ONE EVER VISITS ME...
I WON'T BE STAYING.
NO ONE BOTHERS YOU HERE IN ARKHAM ASYLUM.
IT GIVES YOU TIME TO DO A REALLY GOOD JOB.
HEY, TETCH... I'M OFF-SHIFT IN TEN MINUTES. YOU GOT MY HAT BLOCKED?
OF COURSE, OFFICER.
LOOKS GOOD... I THINK... FUNNY... I... I... DON'T REMEMBER WHAT I THINK...
IT'S WORKING!
I FEEL... SO STRANGE...
THE HAT IS WORKING...
YOU MUST LISTEN VERY CAREFULLY TO ME... RAISE YOUR ARM.
IT WORKS... IT WORKS! QUACK LIKE A DUCK!
QUACK! QUACK! QUACK!

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™
DEFEATING THESE TURRRTLES...
...WAS NOT AT ALL RRROUGH!
WE HAVE CAPTURED THE DESTROYERS OF THE LAST GAEA TREE!
KING WILL BE MOST PLEASED...!
COME ON, MIKEY --WAKE UP!
URG...
...DUDES... MY HEAD FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN USED AS A GONG...!
WHAT'S GOING ON...?
WE'RE IN A CELL.
THE GRRRUFFS ARE HOLDING US HERE WHILE THEY SUMMON THEIR LEADER.
SOMEONE'S COMING!
WEAPONS AT THE READY...!
AW, MAN-- THEY TOOK AWAY OUR WEAPONS!
THEN PREPARE YOUR BODIES INSTEAD, MY SONS...!
LET'S GET READY TO TAKE THIS DUDE DOWN...!
NO-- TO DO SO INVITES DEATH.
PAY HEED.. FOR NONE DARE EVEN LIFT THEIR VOICE AGAINST--
--KING GORRRGE!
CLARRAIN · LAWSON/ BERGER · KELLEHER
TURTLES FAN ART
SEND YOUR BLACK AND WHITE ART WITH YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND AGE C/O THIS NEWSPAPER!
MICHAELANGELO
KATIE WHALEN
BARNEGAT, N.J.
AGE 8
LEONARDO
MARK KINTER
HYDE PARK, PA
AGE 12

may hot picks

selves over at Marvel. It's also the first part of a major storyline that'll run through all four Superman books this month. But that first statement really sums up the reason ***Superman: Man of Steel*** is on the hot picks list: a new Superman book. *(DC, $1.75)*



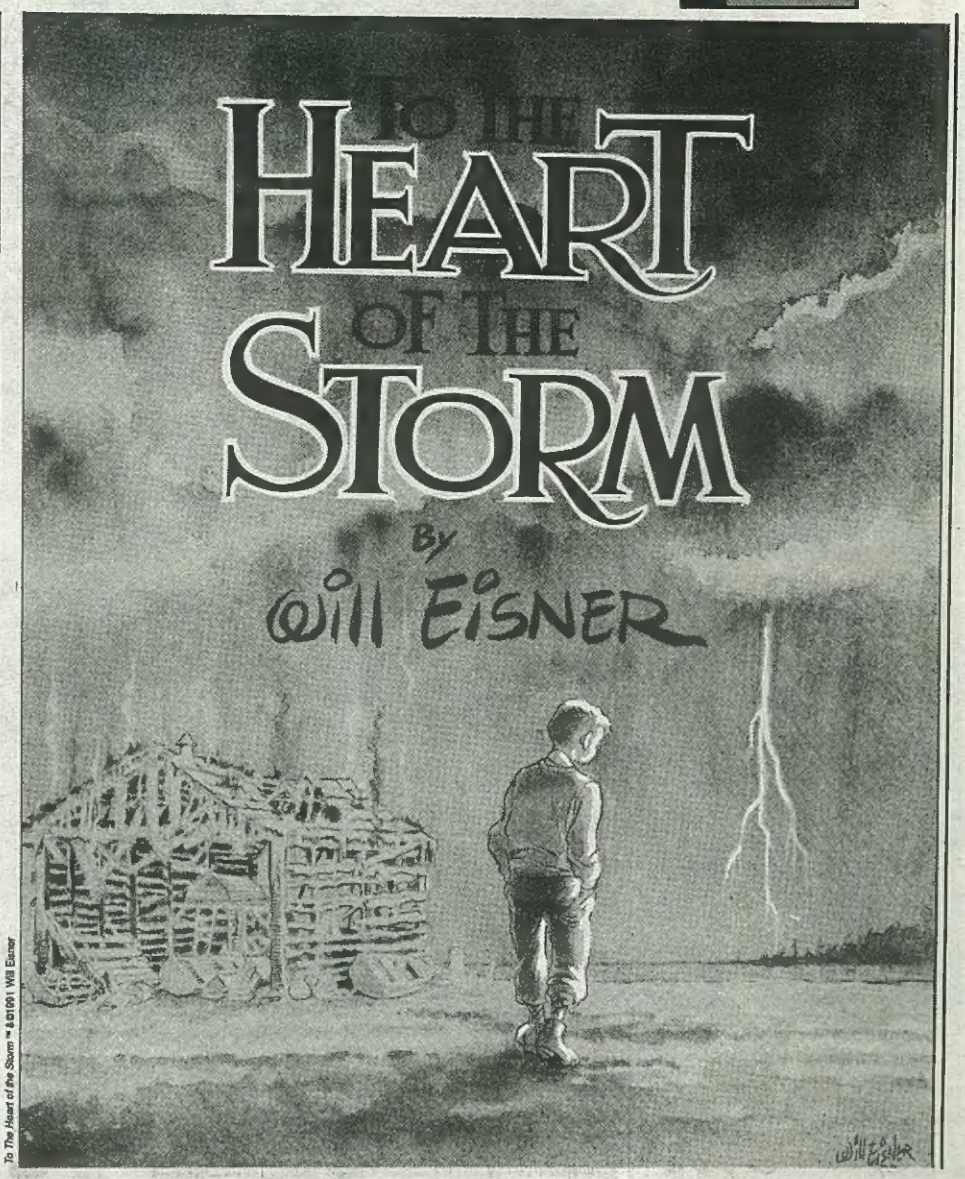
Ninja High School

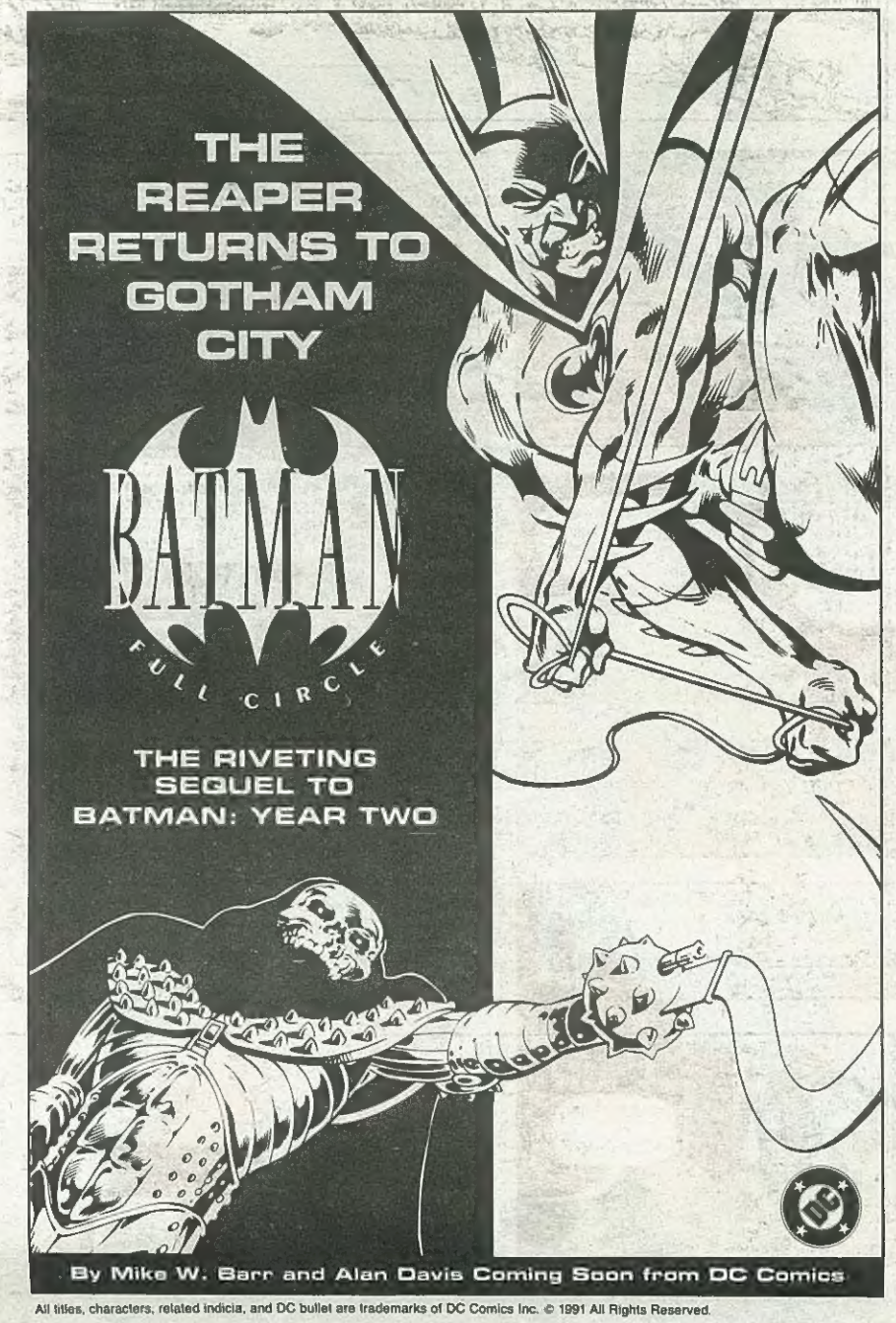
To the Heart of the Storm

A new Will Eisner story deserves fan attention. A major new graphic novel by the greatest Golden Age talent still producing comics today is An Event. ***To the Heart of the Storm*** is just such a graphic novel; it gives fan a look into the formative years of the artist's life in a compelling story that shows just what a graphic novel can be. *(Kitchen Sink, $14.95)*

Uncanny X-Men 278

Have you heard? There's a new ***X-Men*** title coming out this August; you may have seen a mention or two of it in ***CSN.*** Before that new book can debut, though, a lot of storylines have to be wrapped up and the stage has to be set. That's what happens, beginning in this issue of ***X-Men;*** anyone who considers ***X-Men #1*** a must-have will want a copy of this to see how the new teams come about. Former ***X-Men*** artist Paul Smith returns for a month, helping to establish that link to the past that'll lead into the X-Men's surefire-success future. *(Marvel, $1)*




THE REAPER RETURNS TO GOTHAM CITY
BATMAN
FULL CIRCLE
THE RIVETING SEQUEL TO BATMAN: YEAR TWO
By Mike W. Barr and Alan Davis Coming Soon from DC Comics
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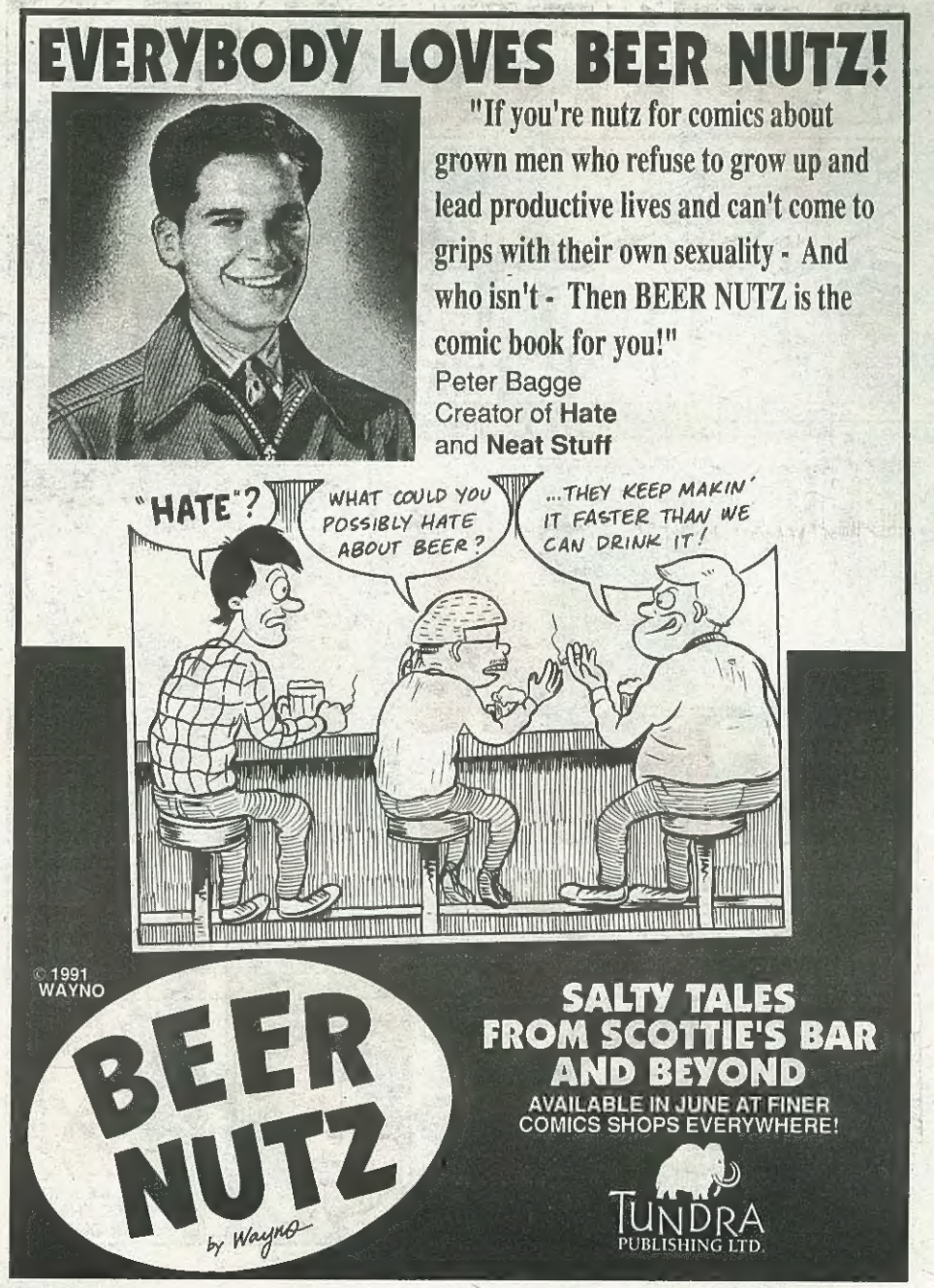
EVERYBODY LOVES BEER NUTZ!
"If you're nutz for comics about grown men who refuse to grow up and lead productive lives and can't come to grips with their own sexuality - And who isn't - Then BEER NUTZ is the comic book for you!"
Peter Bagge
Creator of Hate
and Neat Stuff
"HATE"?
WHAT COULD YOU POSSIBLY HATE ABOUT BEER?
...THEY KEEP MAKIN' IT FASTER THAN WE CAN DRINK IT!
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SALTY TALES FROM SCOTTIE'S BAR AND BEYOND
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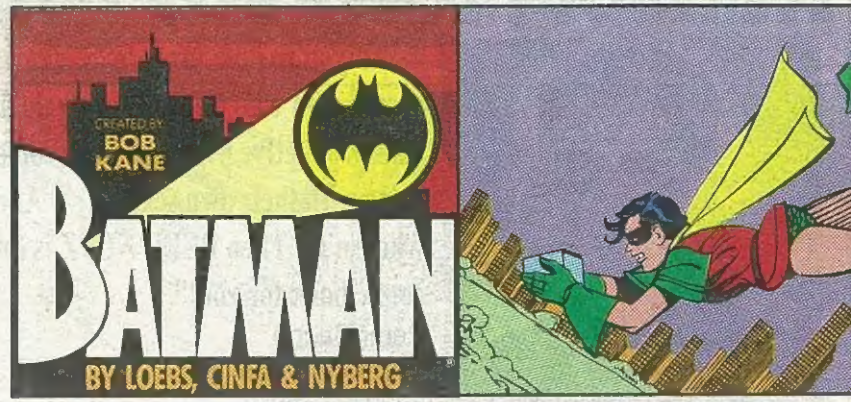
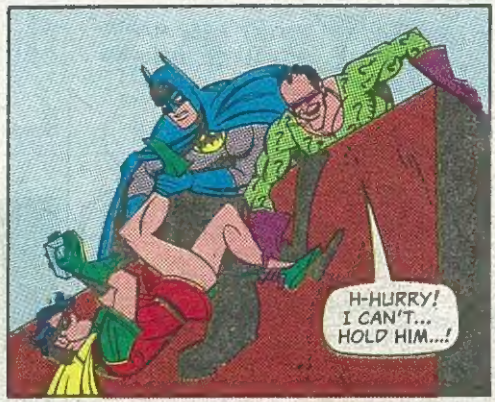
TUNDRA PUBLISHING LTD.


CREATED BY
BOB
KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

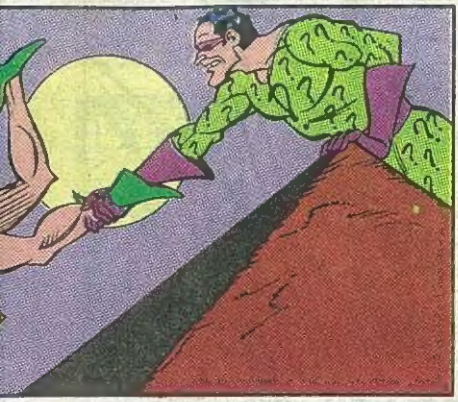

H-HURRY! I CAN'T... HOLD HIM...!

FUNNY THING. ALL THOSE PEOPLE THE NERVE GAS WOULD'VE KILLED. I COULDN'T LET 'EM DIE.
YEAH. REAL FUNNY.

"THE SYSTEM WILL HAVE TO JUDGE THE RIDDLER."
I'M FREE? WHY?
BECAUSE THAT MONEY YOU STOLE WAS SECRET GOVERNMENT FUNDS!
A TRIAL COULD BE EMBARRASSING. SO, OFFICIALLY YOU DON'T EXIST!

OF COURSE, WE'LL TAKE YOUR CAR, YOUR RIDDLE PALACE AND YOUR BANK ACCOUNTS!

YOU CAN'T DO THAT!
SURE WE CAN. WE'RE THE GOVERNMENT!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
I JUST DON'T GET IT! HE'S A SLIMY THIEF AND YET HE SAVED ALL THOSE PEOPLE!
THAT JUST MAKES HIM A SLIMY THIEF WITH ONE DECENT IMPULSE.

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